

Claims

The following is a copy of Applicant's claims that identifies language being added with underlining ("___") and language being deleted with strikethrough ("—"), as is applicable:

1. (Previously presented) A method of device discovery comprising:
downloading a device discovery plug in via a network using a network browser;
activating the device discovery plug in to discover peripheral devices on the network with the device discovery plug in; and
transmitting data describing peripheral devices discovered by the device discovery plug in.
2. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein downloading comprises downloading the device discovery plug in across a firewall from a web site associated with a vendor.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein activating the device discovery plug in comprises activating the device discovery plug in to collect data describing hard copy output engines.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein activating the device discovery plug in comprises activating the device discovery plug in to collect data describing hard copy output engines selected from a group consisting of: facsimile machines, photocopiers and printers.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein activating the device discovery plug in comprises activating the device discovery plug in to collect data chosen from a group consisting of: model and serial number information and included options from an embedded web server contained in the discovered peripheral devices.

6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising organizing collected data into suitable groups.

7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein downloading and activating includes starting a web browser, directing the web browser to a web site associated with a vendor, downloading the device discovery plug in from the vendor web site with the browser and activating the device discovery plug in with the web browser.

8. (Previously presented) An article of manufacture comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable code embodied therein that is configured to cause a processor to:

download a device discovery plug in via a network using a network browser;
activate the device discovery plug in to discover peripheral devices on the network with the device discovery plug in; and

transmit data describing peripheral devices discovered by the device discovery plug in.

9. (Previously presented) The article of manufacture of claim 8, wherein the computer readable code configured to cause the processor to download comprises computer readable code configured to cause the processor to download the device discovery plug in across a firewall from a web site associated with a vendor.

10. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 8, wherein the computer readable code configured to cause the processor to activate comprises computer readable code configured to cause the processor to activate the device discovery plug in to collect data describing hard copy output engines.

11. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 8, wherein the computer readable code configured to cause the processor to activate comprises computer readable code configured to cause the processor to activate the device discovery plug in to collect data describing hard copy output engines selected from a group consisting of: facsimile machines, photocopiers and printers.

12. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 8, wherein the computer readable code configured to cause the processor to activate comprises computer readable code configured to cause the processor to activate the device discovery plug in to collect data chosen from a group consisting of: model and serial number information and included options from an embedded web server contained in the discovered peripheral devices.

13. (Previously presented) The article of manufacture of claim 8, wherein the computer readable code is further configured to cause the processor to organize collected data into suitable groups.

14. (Previously presented) The article of manufacture of claim 8, wherein the computer readable code configured to cause the processor to download and activate comprises computer readable code configured to cause the processor to:

start a web browser;

direct the web browser to a web site associated with a vendor;

download the device discovery plug in from the vendor web site with the browser; and

activate the device discovery plug in with the web browser.

15. (Previously presented) A computer implemented control system for a hard copy output engine, the system comprising:

memory configured to store a software module; and

processing circuitry configured to employ the software module to:

download a device discovery plug in via a network using a web browser;

activate the device discovery plug in to discover peripheral devices on the network with the device discovery plug in; and

transmit data describing peripheral devices discovered by the device discovery plug in.

16. (Original) The computer implemented control system of claim 15, wherein the processing circuitry configured to employ the software module activate comprises processing circuitry configured to employ the software module activate the device discovery plug in to collect data chosen from a group consisting of: model and serial number information and included options from an embedded web server contained in the discovered peripheral devices.

17. (Original) The computer implemented control system of claim 15, wherein the processing circuitry configured to employ the software module to activate includes processing circuitry configured to employ the software module to activate the device discovery plug in to collect data describing hard copy output engines selected from a group consisting of: facsimile machines, photocopiers and printers.

18. (Previously presented) The computer implemented control system of claim 15, wherein the processing circuitry configured to employ the software module to download includes processing circuitry configured to employ the software module to download the device discovery plug in across a firewall from a web site associated with a vendor.

19. (Original) The computer implemented control system of claim 15, wherein the peripheral device is chosen from a group consisting of: facsimile machines, photocopiers and printers.

20. (Previously presented) The computer implemented control system of claim 15, wherein the processing circuitry configured to employ the software module to download and activate comprises processing circuitry configured to employ the software module to:

start a web browser;

direct the web browser to a web site associated with a vendor;

download the device discovery plug in from the vendor web site with the browser; and

activate the device discovery plug in with the web browser.

21. (Previously presented) A computer instruction signal embodied in a carrier wave carrying instructions that when executed by a processor cause the processor to:

download a device discovery plug in via a network using a network browser;

activate the device discovery plug in to discover peripheral devices on the network with the device discovery plug in; and

transmit data describing peripheral devices discovered by the device discovery plug in.

22. (Previously presented) The computer instruction signal of claim 21, wherein the computer instruction signal embodied in the carrier wave carrying instructions that cause the processor to download comprises a computer instruction signal configured to cause the processor to download the device discovery plug in across a firewall from a web site associated with a vendor.

23. (Original) The computer instruction signal of claim 21, wherein the computer instruction signal embodied in the carrier wave carrying instructions that cause the processor to activate comprises a computer instruction signal configured to cause the processor to activate the device discovery plug in to collect data describing hard copy output engines.

24. (Original) The computer instruction signal of claim 21, wherein the computer instruction signal embodied in the carrier wave carrying instructions that cause the processor to activate comprises a computer instruction signal configured to cause the processor to activate the device discovery plug in to collect data describing hard copy output engines selected from a group consisting of: facsimile machines, photocopiers and printers.

25. (Original) The computer instruction signal of claim 21, wherein the computer instruction signal embodied in the carrier wave carrying instructions that cause the processor to activate comprises a computer instruction signal configured to cause the processor to activate the device discovery plug in to collect data chosen from a group consisting of: model and serial number information and included options from an embedded web server contained in the discovered peripheral devices.

26. (Previously presented) The computer instruction signal of claim 21, wherein the computer instruction signal is further configured to cause the processor to organize collected data into suitable groups.

27. (Previously presented) The computer instruction signal of claim 21, wherein the computer instruction signal embodied in the carrier wave carrying instructions that cause the processor to download and activate comprises a computer instruction signal configured to cause the processor to:

start a web browser;

direct the web browser to a web site associated with a vendor;

download the device discovery plug in from the vendor web site with the browser; and

activate the device discovery plug in with the web browser.

28. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein downloading a device discovery plug in comprises downloading a device discovery plug in onto a host computer on the network.

29. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein activating the device discovery plug in comprises activating the device discovery plug in to poll peripheral devices on the network to identify their addresses.

30. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein transmitting data describing peripheral devices comprises transmitting the data to a vendor website.

31. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30, further comprising storing the data describing the peripheral devices in association with the vendor website.

32. (Previously presented) The method of claim 6, wherein organizing collected data into suitable groups comprises organizing the collected data according to an internal business structure associated with the network.

33. (Previously presented) The method of claim 6, further comprising identifying a purchase authorizer for each group.

34. (Previously presented) The method of claim 6, further comprising identifying a maintainer for each group.